

Message Text

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16
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W
----- 118794
R 130449Z DEC 73
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0874

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 10114

EXDIS

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, MASS, IS
SUBJ: PENTAGON PRESS LEAKS

REF: TEL AVIV 9622

1. WHILE WE HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL (WITH AN ASSIST FROM GOI CENSORSHIP) IN HOLDING THE LINE ON PRESS ATTENTION TO VISITING U.S. MILITARY TEAMS, SUBJECT HAS CROPPED UP WITH REGULARITY AMONG FOREIGN NEWSMEN.

2. FOR EXAMPLE, PRESS ATTACHE EARLIER THIS WEEK MET BARRAGE OF QUESTIONS FROM BRITISH NEWSMEN (SUNDAY TIMES AND DAILY TELEGRAPH) WHO SAW MAKINGS OF CAMBODIA--TYPE U.S. PRESENT IN ISRAEL. THEY BASED THEIR VIEWS ON REPORTS THAT SEVERAL DELEGATIONS HEADED BY AMERICAN GENERALS WERE IN ISRAEL.

3. IN REPLY, PRESS ATTACHE NOTED IT IS NO SECRET--IN FACT, IT HAD BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED IN WASHINGTON-- THAT THERE HAVE BEEN ON OCCASION HANDFUL OF PEOPLE FROM U.S. DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT HERE IN CONNECTION WITH RESUPPLY EFFORT. HE STRESSED THAT ANY IMPLICATION OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT BEYOND MILITARY SUPPLY WOULD BE WHOLLY INCORRECT CONCLUSION.

4. IN ALL, WE BELIEVE WE HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN DEFLECTING ATTENTION TO THESE VISITS. BUT TODAY, JERUSALEM POST CARRIES AP PIECE FROM WASHINGTON (BYLINE FRED HOFFMAN) WHICH NOTES IN PART THAT "TEAMS OF OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF AND CONFIDENTIAL

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EXPERTS FROM THE PENTAGON'S WEAPONS SYSTEMS EVALUATION GROUP ARE IN ISRAEL..."

5. I AM OF COURSE NOT SO MUCH CONCERNED WITH THIS EMBASSY'S

CREDIBILITY BUT MORE SO
WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF OVERBLOWN PRESS ACCOUNTS OF U.S.
MILITARY PRESENCE HERE. WE WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT
TO MAINTAIN A BELOW-GROUND PROFILE OF VISITING MILITARY
DELEGATIONS, BUT I DO SUGGEST*THAT THE AGENCIES INVOLVED REVIEW
THE PRESENT PRESS GUIDANCE IN VIEW OF THE LEAKY FAUCET AT THE
PENTAGON.

6. WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING UPDATED PRESS GUIDANCE
IN VIEW OF HOFFMAN DISCLOSURE.
KEATING

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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